



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Franklin County Veteran Affairs announces the release of Operation Save-A-Vet, Save-A-Pet applications to County Veterans to apply for a service dog**

April 21, 2016 - CHAMBERSBURG, PA –

Operation Save-A-Vet, Save-A-Pet is a program dedicated to helping Franklin County veterans with service-connected disabilities lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives. This program benefits the veteran, the dog, and the community. The dogs are capable of serving veterans with a number of physical and psychological needs. Service dogs have proven to be highly valuable in assisting veterans with all types of disabilities, including, but not limited to: diabetes, seizure disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder and psychiatric disorders, stability and traumatic brain injury. Our dogs come from local rescues and shelters, and a few select breeding lines, and are provided with highly specialized training and care.

Our program's goal is to help heal the emotional & physical wounds of our veterans by pairing them with a service dog that is specially selected to match the veteran's personality. Our dog trainer, Helen Carlson, will teach our dogs good manners & commands to fit into the veteran's lifestyle. Our dogs receive a chance to help a hero while giving our veterans a chance at health and happiness. "It is truly remarkable how Franklin County residents have stepped up to support this wonderful service to our veterans," said Commissioner and Board Chairman Dave Keller.

A service dog can have a big impact on a person's life. For those dealing with the day-to-day challenges of life with a disability, a service dog custom trained to meet their special needs can prove to be of enormous assistance in helping the veteran achieve a greater level of mobility, personal safety, independence and improved overall quality of life. Dogs that are trained to assist to their owner's needs definitely provide a great amount of physical and/or psychological support, which can mean more independence and functional freedom for the person.

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For additional information on Franklin County visit [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov).

For detailed information about our program and eligibility requirements for our service dog application please visit our webpage at: [http://franklincountypa.gov/index.php?section=human-services\\_veteran-affairs](http://franklincountypa.gov/index.php?section=human-services_veteran-affairs).

PLEASE NOTE: We currently only serve Veterans who reside in Franklin County, PA.

\*Period to submit applications for an Operation Save-A-Vet, Save-A-Pet Service Dog ends May 30, 2016 at noon.\*

To obtain an application and apply please contact the Franklin County Veteran Affairs Office at 717-263-4326 or stop by our office at 425 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202.

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